

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) A method of purchasing an appliance consuming electric power comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining by a user, from an appliance provider, the appliance provider being separate from an electric power provider, an appliance at a special purchase price;

(b) operating by the user the appliance obtained in step (a);

(c) measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance when operating in step (b);

(d) transmitting the measurement value of the electric power consumed in step (c) to a computer database;

(e) accumulating in the database the amount of power measured in step (c);

(f) charging after installation of the appliance, the user by the electric power provider a predetermined fee for the amount of power accumulated in step (e) at a higher rate than a ~~conventional~~ previous rate charged by the electric power provider for consumed electricity; and

(g) providing, by the electric power provider, a portion of the calculated fee charged to the user in step (f) to the separate appliance provider to offset the special purchase price in step (a).

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 in which step (a) includes obtaining, from the appliance provider, the appliance at the special purchase price that is lower than a ~~conventional~~ previous purchase price of the appliance; and

step (f) includes charging the user the predetermined fee for the amount of power accumulated in step (e) at a higher rate than a conventional rate charged by the electric power provider for consumed electricity.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 in which step (c) includes installing a power management unit at the location of the appliance operating in step (b) to measure the power consumed by the appliance, and

step (g) includes providing another portion of the calculated fee charged to the user to an installer of the power measurement unit.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 in which step (c) includes measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance, when operating in step (b), separately from power consumed by other appliances being operated by the user.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

step (f) includes setting the predetermined fee in advance; and

step (c) includes detecting an amount of electric power consumed by the appliance.

32. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

step (b) includes operating the appliance for carrying out a predetermined operation by consuming electric power, and

operating the appliance in an energy saving mode for reducing the consumed electric power.

33. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the appliance includes an energy saving controller; and

step (a) includes obtaining by the user the appliance from the appliance provider and obtaining the energy saving controller from another provider, the other provider being different from the appliance provider; and

step (g) includes providing by the electric power provider a portion of the calculated fee to at least one of the appliance provider and the other provider.

34. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

step (e) includes storing information regarding a degree of energy savings of the appliance, and

step (f) includes determining the predetermined fee based on the degree of energy savings of the appliance.

35. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

step (d) includes preparing measurement information of the value of the electric power consumed and information of a degree of the energy savings of the appliance, and

transmitting the information via a network.

36. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

step (b) includes installing the appliance, an automatic power measuring device for measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance, and an energy saving controller at the home of the user, and

step (e) includes installing a device for accumulating the amount of power measured in the database at a location of the electric power provider.

37. (New) A method of purchasing an appliance consuming electric power comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining by a user, from an appliance provider, the appliance provider being separate from an electric power provider, an appliance operable in

either (a) a first mode using a previous rate charged by the electric power provider for the amount of power consumed by the appliance, or (b) a second mode using a higher rate than the previous rate charged by the electric power provider for the amount of power consumed by the appliance;


(b) operating by the user the appliance obtained in step (a) in the second mode;

(c) measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance when operating in step (b);

(d) transmitting the measurement value of the electric power consumed in step (c) to a computer database;

(e) accumulating in the database the amount of power measured in step (c);

(f) charging, after installation of the appliance, the user by the electric power provider a predetermined fee for the amount of power accumulated in step (e) at the higher rate than the previous rate charged by the electric power provider for consumed electricity;



(g) providing, by the electric power provider, a portion of the calculated fee charged to the user in step (f) to the separate appliance provider to offset a special purchase price provided to the user for operating the appliance in the second mode, and

(h) providing the user the special purchase price for obtaining the appliance from the appliance provider, the special purchase price being lower than a previous purchase price of the appliance.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein

step (c) includes detecting that the user is operating the appliance in the second mode.

39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the appliance includes an energy saving controller; and

step (a) includes obtaining by the user the appliance from the appliance provider and obtaining the energy saving controller from another provider, the other provider being different from the appliance provider; and

step (g) includes providing by the electric power provider a portion of the calculated fee to at least one of the appliance provider and the other provider.

40. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein

step (e) includes storing information regarding a degree of energy savings of the appliance, and

step (f) includes determining the predetermined fee based on the degree of energy savings of the appliance.

41. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein

step (d) includes preparing measurement information of the value of the electric power consumed and information of a degree of the energy savings of the appliance, and

transmitting the information via a network.

42. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein

step (b) includes installing the appliance, an automatic power measuring device for measuring the value of the electric power consumed by the appliance, and an energy saving controller at the home of the user, and

step (e) includes installing a device for accumulating the amount of power measured in the database at a location of the electric power provider.

43. (New) The method of claim 37 including the step of:

Application No.: 09/912,854
Amendment Dated: March 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: December 23, 2003

MTS-3264US

displaying at the home of the user the predetermined fee for the amount of power accumulated at the higher rate than the previous rate charged by the electric power provider for the consumed electricity.

44. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein

step (b) includes sensing presence of a human body in the home of the user, and operating the appliance after sensing the presence of the human body.
